

– Media Release –

**Investing in Culture: APPLICATIONS OPEN for the 2020 Taiwan – Australia
Indigenous Artist in Residence**

For the third consecutive year, the Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residence will be co-funded by the Northern Territory Government and the Taiwan Indigenous Peoples Cultural Development Centre.

Louise Partos, Executive Officer, Artback NT said “I am delighted that the Northern Territory Government will continue their support of the Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residence program for 2020. The rich cultural fabric and layered histories of Taiwan and Australia provide a framework for First Nations artists to develop their practice. The artists who have previously participated in this cultural exchange program have made connections culminating in new work and have provided real outcomes for the Creative Industries in the Territory.”

The ongoing support from the Northern Territory Government will allow the exchange to continue to promote Indigenous cultures and histories within Australia and Taiwan and provide audiences with contemporary representations of First Nations perspectives through the arts. Expressions of Interest for 2020 are now open for Northern Territory Indigenous artists working in the visual arts, music, theatre or dance.

Acting Minister for Tourism, Sport and Culture, Eva Lawler, said “I encourage Aboriginal artists from the NT to apply for this exchange program which offers Territory and Taiwanese artists the opportunity to work together towards a mutual respect and understanding of the rich and unique heritage of both countries.”

The program presents artists with an invaluable experience for cultural exchange. “This residency has enabled First Nations artists from Taiwan and the Northern Territory an extraordinary opportunity to see first-hand how another Indigenous community operates outside of their respective countries. I am looking forward to supporting the next artists to embrace this extraordinary experience. The Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residence Program is a celebration of culture and identity” said Partos.

The exchange will enable selected artists to engage in different cultural customs and strengthen connections between their respective arts communities. Minister Lawler said “We recognise the crucial role Aboriginal arts and culture plays in the history, identity and contemporary culture of the Territory and we



are committed to supporting opportunities that showcase and communicate this to our international neighbours."

Songman and multi-artform creative Bobby Bununggurr was the second Northern Territory recipient of the Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residence Program and travelled to Rinari for the exchange in October and November 2019. Bununggurr said "If you don't understand my language, you can still feel the spirit of my culture and message, which is something that I work hard at, making music and drawing you into my story."

Applications for the Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residence close on Monday 9 March, 2020

ABOUT THE EXCHANGE

The Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residence program offers an emerging or established Indigenous artist from the Northern Territory a 6 week residency in Taiwan.

The residency will be based in the community of Rinari, Pingtung County, South Taiwan and includes:

- Artist fee of \$6,000 for the full 6 weeks
- An option to travel with an assistant or companion for the duration of the residency
- Travel costs including flights and shared accommodation
- Appropriate studio space
- Interpretative assistance: English – Chinese
- Assistance to showcase work completed during residency
- Up to \$1,000 for freight and materials as required

The residency will be held within **May – November 2020** as negotiated. To learn more about the program and artists go to <http://bit.ly/2EqaLYl>

Bobby Bununggurr, songman and multi-artform creative and Louise Partos, Executive Officer, Artback NT are available for interview upon request.

Media Enquiries

Rebecca Renshaw | Communications Manager |
communications@artbacknt.com.au | +61 (0) 8 8941 1444 | 0407 311 855

The Taiwan – Australia Indigenous Artist in Residence is a collaboration between Artback NT and the Indigenous Peoples Cultural Development Centre, Taiwan and is generously supported by the Northern Territory Government, Taiwan's Council of Indigenous Peoples and the Australian Office in Taipei.